MARVEL COMICS
2099
AUG '96 44
DOOM 2099
SPECTACULAR FINAL ISSUE!
THINGS TO COME...
TATO

PROLOGUE
CYBERSPACE IS COLLAPSING.
UNUSUAL ATMOSPHERIC INTERFERENCE IS WREAKING HAVOC ON THE ELECTRONIC NET.
CONNECTIONS ARE DOWN, INFORMATION HAS VANISHED INTO THE ETHER.
WORKING TO FORTIFY THE DATA FRONTIER AGAINST FURTHER DAMAGE --
-- CYBERSPACE LEGEND DUKE STRATOSPHERE STUMBLED ACROSS SOMETHING DISTURBING --
-- A PROGRAM DEVOURING EVERY GIGABYTE OF INFORMATION IN ITS PATH --
-- LIKE NOTHING HE'D EVER SEEN, WRITTEN IN A CODE THAT HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND, LET ALONE BREAK.
ALL HE CAN DO IS STAY OUT OF THIS RAVENOUS MONSTER'S PATH.
AND WONDER IF THIS STRANGE ELECTRONIC JUGGERNAUT IS NOT SIMPLY OF FOREIGN DESIGN --
-- BUT OF ALIEN ORIGIN.

THE RAIN HAS STOPPED AND THE SKY HAS CLEARED.
THERE IS A MOMENTARY BREAK IN THE UNNATURAL STORMS THAT HAVE BLANKETED THE PLANET.
NOW, OVER THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRY OF LATVERIA, TWO LARGE BODIES ARE VISIBLE IN THE NIGHT TIME SKY --
-- THE MOON AND THE ALIEN SATELLITE WHICH HAS ASSUMED ORBIT AROUND THE EARTH WITH CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS.
ON THE SURFACE BELOW, BOTH CAST SHIMMERING REFLECTIONS IN RIVERS OF FLOWING BLOOD.
HURRGH... HURRGH...
HOW CAN YOU SURFACE DWELLERS STAND THESE PUTRID FUMES YOU CALL AIR --
-- I THINK NOW ATTUMA WAS WRONG TO DECLARE WAR ON YOU...
HURRGH...
...YOU'RE GOING TO POISON YOURSELVES WITH POLLUTANTS SOON ENOUGH.
YOU WILL NOT BE HERE TO SEE IF THAT DAY COMES, ATLANTEAN.
MY WATER RESPIRATOR'S DAMAGED, AND SHRAPNEL'S SLICED A VEIN IN MY LEG. I WON'T ASK FOR MERCY.

STAN LEE Presents:
ENTANGLING ALLIANCES
AND IT WILL NOT BE GIVEN.
YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE COME HERE, GENERAL. THIS IS MY COUNTRY!
NO ONE INVADES MY HOME!
HE IS VICTOR VON DOOM, GYPSY, SCIENTIST, REVOLUTIONARY, AND WHEN PROVOKED --
-- AN ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION.
JOHN FRANCIS MOORE writer
JEFF LAFFERTY penciler
RUSSELL, RUBINSTEIN, PEPOY & PANOSIAN inks
RICHARD STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT lettering
ED LAZZELLARI colors
MALIBU enhancement
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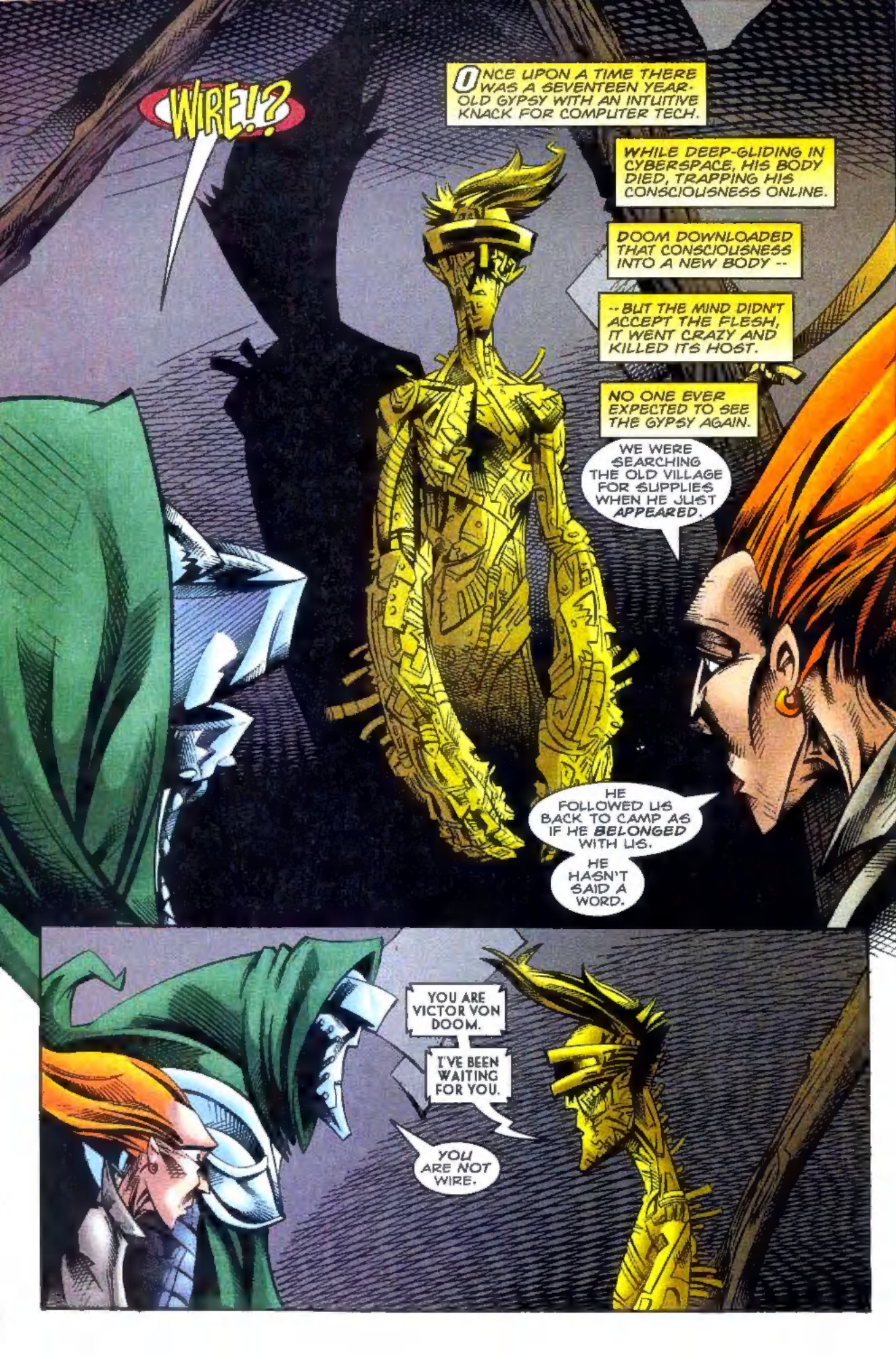
THE LAST ATLANTEAN SOLDIER IS DEAD.
MY SENSORS DETECT NO MORE SIGNS OF LIFE IN WHAT HAS BECOME THIS KILLING FIELD.
I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN THIS BLOODSHED --
-- BUT I WILL TAKE ANY MEASURES NECESSARY TO KEEP LATVERIA AND ITS PEOPLE SAFE FROM FOREIGN THREAT.
I FAILED ONCE, BUT NEVER AGAIN.
NOTHING HAS BEEN THE SAME SINCE I RETURNED FROM MY JOURNEY TO THE 1990'S.
A TIMELOST REED RICHARDS -- MY TWENTIETH CENTURY NEMESIS -- APPEARED AT MY CASTLE REQUESTING MY AID.
ACCORDING TO THE STILL YOUTHFUL Mr. FANTASTIC, THE ALIEN SATELLITE ORBITING EARTH PRESENTS A GRAVE AND IMMEDIATE DANGER.
HOWEVER, WHEN THE ATLANTEAN WARLORD ATTUMA THREATENED LATVERIA --
-- I COULD WASTE NO MORE TIME WITH RICHARDS EXTRATERRESTRIAL CONCERNS --
-- AND LEFT HIM TO RETURN TO HIS THREE SYCOPHANTIC FAMILY MEMBERS.*
* SEE FANTASTIC FOUR 2099 #7.
ATTUMA'S INVADERS WERE WOEFULLY UNPREPARED FOR RESISTANCE.
WHAT A FOOL TO SEND HIS FORCES TO A LANDLOCKED COUNTRY.
I WILL MAKE CLEAR TO HIM THE EXTENT OF HIS FOLLY.

D'JROK, IS THAT YOU, YOU WORTHLESS PRAWN?
WHY HAVE I RECEIVED NO REPORT FROM THE LATVERIAN FRONT?
HAVE YOU CLAIMED THAT DESPOT'S PATCH OF DIRT FOR ATLANTIS YET?
NO, ATTUMA, THIS DESPOT HAS ROUTED YOUR WOULD-BE INVASION.
DOOM!
A MYRIDIAN DEFENSE SATELLITE AT MY COMMAND BLEW YOUR SHIPS OUT OF THE SKY ONCE THEY ENTERED LATVERIAN AIRSPACE.
THE REST OF YOUR FORCES I DEALT WITH PERSONALLY.
DO NOT WORRY. I WILL BURN YOUR DEAD.
YOU DARE DESECRATE ATLANTEAN BODIES WITH FIRE?
BY THE OCEAN MOTHER, DOOM, YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR EFFRONTERY.
SAVE YOUR THREATS, WARLORD. YOU HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO BACK THEM.
EVEN AS WE SPEAK, YOUR DREAMS OF WORLD CONQUEST ARE BEING THWARTED BY THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
IN THE FACE OF YOUR IMPENDING DEFEAT, I SUGGEST SURRENDER OR SUICIDE.

THERE ARE HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS FOR EITHER ONE.
AARGH
ATTUMA WAS ALWAYS TOO IMPATIENT AND BLOOD THIRSTY TO SUCCEED.
RISING OCEAN LEVELS WILL DO MORE DAMAGE TO THE SURFACE WORLD THAN HIS INVADERS COULD EVER HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH.
LOOK AT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MY LATVERIAN VALLEY...
THE CIRI RIVER HAS FLOODED ANKTIVA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CENTURIES --
-- AND CLAIMED THE SKYSCRAPERS OF GOJRADIA AS WELL.
THE POLAR CAPS ARE MELTING AT AN ALARMING RATE.
SOON NOTHING BELOW 4000 FEET WILL REMAIN ABOVE WATER.
IT IS THIS ALIEN SATELLITE THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE GLOBAL CHANGES.
ITS PROXIMITY AFFECTS ATMOSPHERIC AND TIDAL PATTERNS.
THROUGH ALL OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL TURBULENCE --
-- I MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT LATVERIA AND MY PEOPLE SURVIVE.

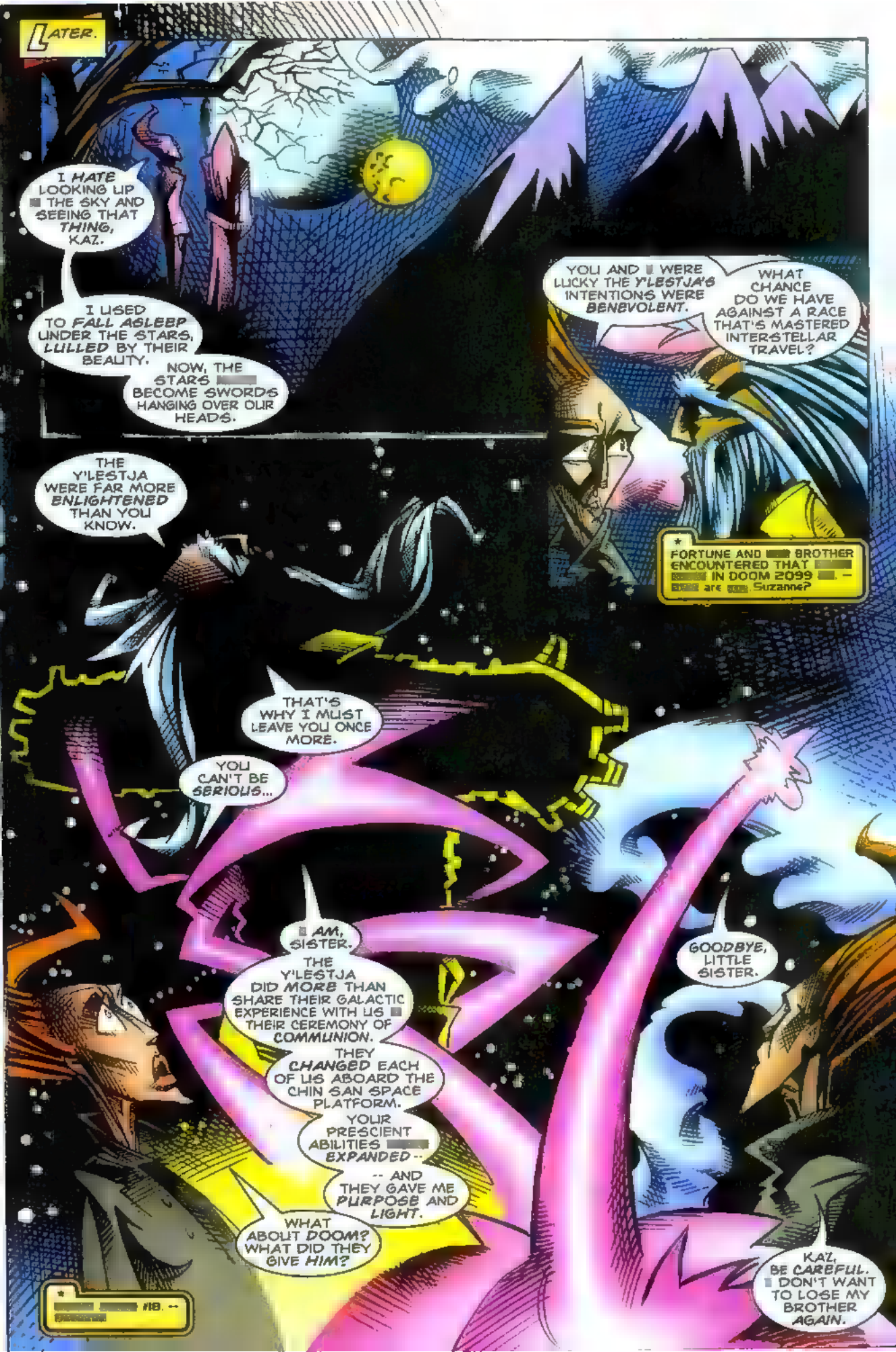
HIGH IN THE MAHELA MOUNTAINS ABOVE THE FLOODED VALLEY -- THE ZEFIRO GYPSIES HAVE CONSTRUCTED A TEMPORARY CAMP.
SOON, THEY WONDER, WILL THERE BE ANY PLACE LEFT TO MOVE?
IT LOOKS LIKE HIM, FORTUNE. IT MOVES LIKE HIM.
I SAY WE KILL IT, ANDRE.
EVEN IF WE WANTED TO, BORIS. I DON'T THINK WE COULD.
WHAT DO THE CARDS SAY, FORTUNE?
BESIDES "LEARN HOW TO BREATHE UNDERWATER!" NOT MUCH.
HOWEVER, I'M SURE THIS THING... WHATEVER IT IS... DOESN'T POSE AN IMMEDIATE THREAT.
NOT TO US ANYWAY.
MORE TROUBLING IS HOW OFTEN THIS CARD KEEPS TURNING UP.
The Moon
IT REPRESENTS DECEPTION, CONCEALED DANGERS AND HIDDEN ENEMIES --
-- WHICH SAYS TO ME, THINGS ARE GOING TO GET WORSE.
AND I DON'T KNOW WHICH SIDE OUR TROUBLED COUSIN WILL CHOOSE --
-- BUT HE'S SURE TO BE IN THE CENTER OF THE STORM.

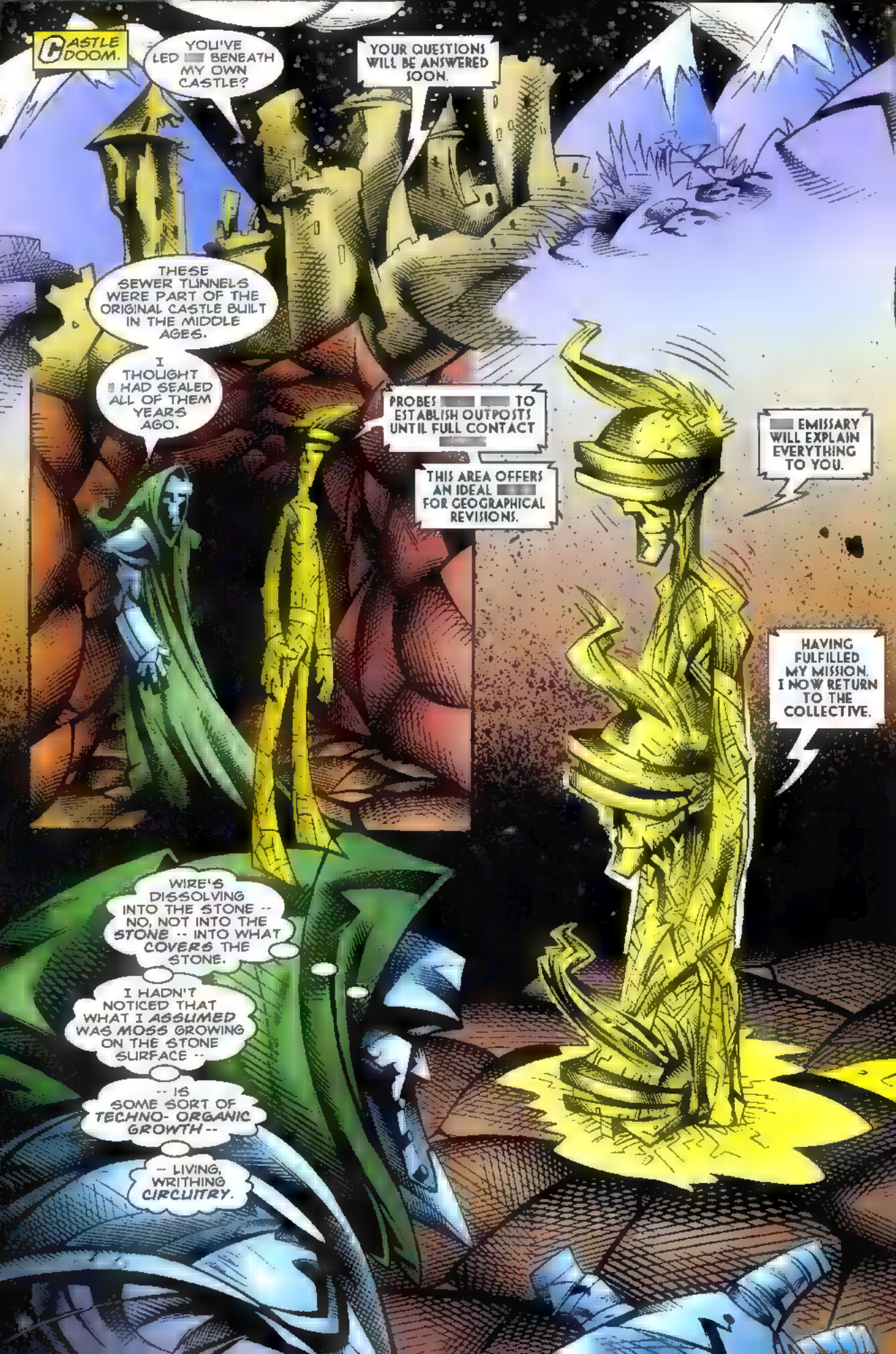
I AM SURPRISED YOU ASKED TO SEE ME, FORTUNE.
YOU MADE IT CLEAR YOU AND THE ZEFIRO WANTED NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH ME.
AFTER WHAT YOUR AMERICAN OBSESSION COST LATVERIA, I STILL HAVE MY RESERVATIONS --
-- BUT IN EVERY READING I'VE DONE, ITS CLEAR OUR FUTURES ARE INTERWINED --
-- LIKE IT OR NOT, WE'RE STUCK WITH EACH OTHER.
I HAVE ALWAYS RESPECTED YOUR DIVINATORY ABILITIES.
THEY'VE BECOME EVEN SHARPER AND MORE PRECISE LATELY.
I KNEW THE MOMENT YOU'D RETURN FROM THE PAST.
I VIVIDLY SAW THE MUTALACOS ATTACKING YOU. *
* LAST ISSUE -- Hi, Suzanne!
AND AS FOR SOME OF THE OTHER VISIONS I'VE SEEN --
-- WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THEY DON'T MAKE ME WANT TO GET UP IN THE MORNING.
FORTUNE, BE AWARE THAT I AM TAKING EVERY MEASURE TO INSURE THAT LATVERIA WILL NEVER AGAIN FALL VICTIM TO FOREIGN POWERS.
YOU MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE. TAKE A LOOK.


WIRE!?
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A SEVENTEEN YEAR-OLD GYPSY WITH AN INTUITIVE KNACK FOR COMPUTER TECH.
WHILE DEEP-GLIDING IN CYBERSPACE, HIS BODY DIED, TRAPPING HIS CONSCIOUSNESS ONLINE.
DOOM DOWNLOADED THAT CONSCIOUSNESS INTO A NEW BODY --
-- BUT THE MIND DIDN'T ACCEPT THE FLESH, IT WENT CRAZY AND KILLED ITS HOST.
NO ONE EVER EXPECTED TO SEE THE GYPSY AGAIN.
WE WERE SEARCHING THE OLD VILLAGE FOR SUPPLIES WHEN HE JUST APPEARED.
HE FOLLOWED US BACK TO CAMP AS IF HE BELONGED WITH US.
HE HASN'T SAID A WORD.
YOU ARE VICTOR VON DOOM.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
YOU ARE NOT WIRE.

WIRE IS PART OF THIS ENTITY.
MY/HIS COREPROG WAS DOWNLOADED INTO THE COLLECTIVE MATRIX.
MY/HIS MEMORY IS NOW MINE/OURS. FROM IT I/WE LEARNED OF YOU.
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
WHEN WIRE DIED, HE WAS IN CYBERSPACE.
HIS CONSCIOUSNESS HAD BEEN TRANSLATED INTO COMPUTER CODE --
-- MEANING THAT SOMEWHERE IT STILL EXISTED TO BE ACCESSED AND DUPLICATED.
MY/OUR COLLECTIVE SHARES SIMILAR GOALS TO YOUR ZEFIRO TRIBE.
ALL THOUGHT AND ACTION BENEFIT THE COLLECTIVE WHOLE.
THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THE COLLECTIVE HAVE BEEN ON THIS PLANET.
THE EARLIER CONTACT WITH YOUR SPECIES PROVED PROBLEMATIC.
Hmmm.
HE'S AN ALIEN? YOU MEAN WE'VE BEEN INVADED?
I/WE ARE PART OF THE COLLECTIVE WHOLE.
MY/OUR VESSEL NOW ORBITS YOUR PLANET.

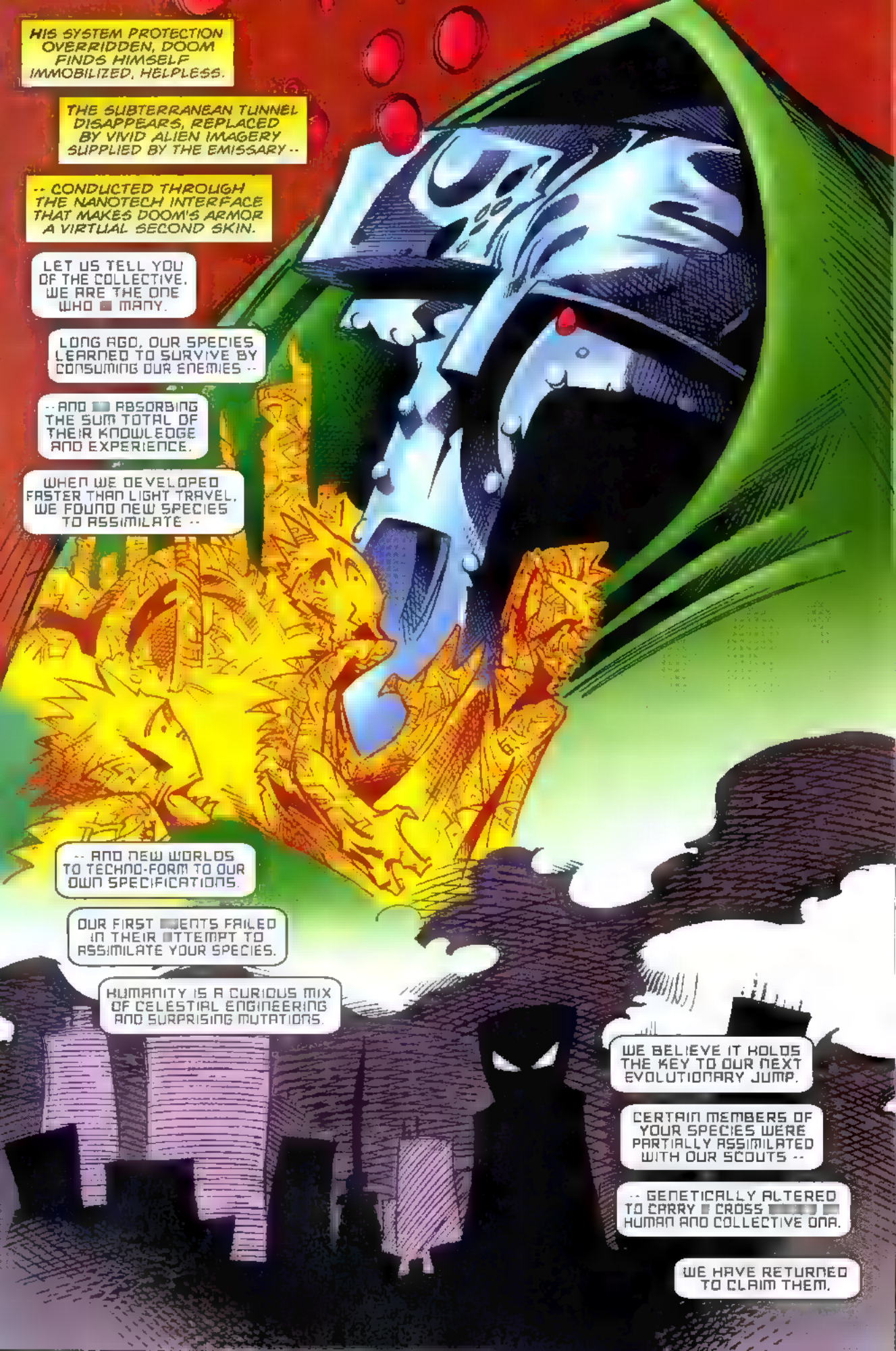
AND WHY HAVE YOU SOUGHT ME OUT, CREATURE?
I/WE EXTEND TO YOU A DIPLOMATIC INVITATION TO MEET THE COLLECTIVE EMISSARY.
[redacted] WILL EXPLAIN OUR [redacted] ON YOUR PLANET.
[redacted] A GREAT HONOR TO INTERFACE [redacted] THIS PART OF THE COLLECTIVE.
AND IF I REFUSE?
REFUSAL IS NOT AN OPTION.
DON'T DO IT, DOOM.
DO YOU SENSE DANGER?
NO, BUT TRUST ME WHEN I TELL YOU THIS --
-- IF YOU GO WITH HIM, YOU'LL BEGIN A SERIES OF EVENTS THAT WILL HAVE [redacted] CONSEQUENCES FOR LATVERIA.
I APPRECIATE THE WARNING.
HOWEVER, THIS TECHNO-ORGANIC MOCKERY OF OUR DEAD COMPANION IS ONLY A MESSENGER --
-- AND IF I AM TO DETERMINE THE THREAT HIS RACE MAY POSE, I MUST MEET HIS MASTER.
GOOD. THE EMISSARY AWAITS.


LATER.
I HATE LOOKING UP ■ THE SKY AND SEEING THAT THING, KAZ.
I USED TO FALL ASLEEP UNDER THE STARS, LULLED BY THEIR BEAUTY.
NOW, THE STARS ■ BECOME SWORDS HANGING OVER OUR HEADS.
YOU AND ■ WERE LUCKY THE Y'LESTJA'S INTENTIONS WERE BENEVOLENT.
WHAT CHANCE DO WE HAVE AGAINST A RACE THAT'S MASTERED INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL?
* FORTUNE AND ■ BROTHER ENCOUNTERED THAT ■ IN DOOM 2099 ■. -- ■ are ■ Suzanne?
THE Y'LESTJA WERE FAR MORE ENLIGHTENED THAN YOU KNOW.
THAT'S WHY I MUST LEAVE YOU ONCE MORE.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS...
■ AM, SISTER.
THE Y'LESTJA DID MORE THAN SHARE THEIR GALACTIC EXPERIENCE WITH US ■ THEIR CEREMONY OF COMMUNION.
THEY CHANGED EACH OF US ABOARD THE CHIN SAN SPACE PLATFORM.
YOUR PRESCIENT ABILITIES ■ EXPANDED --
-- AND THEY GAVE ME PURPOSE AND LIGHT.
WHAT ABOUT DOOM? WHAT DID THEY GIVE HIM?
GOODBYE, LITTLE SISTER.
KAZ, BE CAREFUL. ■ DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY BROTHER AGAIN.
* ■ ■ #18. --


CASTLE DOOM.
YOU'VE LED [redacted] BENEATH MY OWN CASTLE?
YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED SOON.
THESE SEWER TUNNELS WERE PART OF THE ORIGINAL CASTLE BUILT IN THE MIDDLE AGES.
I THOUGHT [redacted] HAD SEALED ALL OF THEM YEARS AGO.
PROBES [redacted] TO ESTABLISH OUTPOSTS UNTIL FULL CONTACT [redacted]
THIS AREA OFFERS AN IDEAL [redacted] FOR GEOGRAPHICAL REVISIONS.
[redacted] EMISSARY WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU.
HAVING FULFILLED MY MISSION, I NOW RETURN TO THE COLLECTIVE.
WIRE'S DISSOLVING INTO THE STONE -- NO, NOT INTO THE *STONE* -- INTO WHAT *COVERS* THE STONE.
I HADN'T NOTICED THAT WHAT I *ASSUMED* WAS *MOSS* GROWING ON THE STONE SURFACE --
-- IS SOME SORT OF *TECHNO-ORGANIC GROWTH* --
-- LIVING, WRITHING *CIRCUITRY*.

DOOM HAS LITTLE CHANCE TO INVESTIGATE THIS STRANGE GROWTH WHEN --
-- IN THE SAME PLACE THE DISTORTED WIRE DOPPELGANGER DISAPPEARED --
-- ANOTHER, MORE OMINOUS FIGURE TAKES SHAPE BEFORE HIS EYES.
WELCOME, VICTOR VON DOOM.
WE ARE THE EMISSARY.
YOU WILL AID US IN THE ASSIMILATION OF THIS WORLD.

YOU PRESUME A GREAT DEAL, ALIEN.
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN SUCCEED WHERE THE KREE AND SHI'AR FAILED?
RESISTANCE FROM YOUR SPECIES IS EXPECTED.
ULTIMATELY YOU WILL SURRENDER TO THE COLLECTIVE.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'LL HELP YOU?
THIS AUDIO METHOD OF COMMUNICATION IS LIMITED.
YOUR MACHINE CONSCIOUSNESS IS PRIMITIVE --
-- BUT WE WILL ACCESS YOUR EXOSKELETON'S SENSORY INPUTS.
NO!
A SNAKY TENDRIL TELESCOPES FROM THE EMISSARY'S BODY AND ATTACHES ITSELF TO DOOM --
-- BREAKING THROUGH THE NEAR IMPERVIOUS ARMOR WITH RAZOR LIKE PRECISION --
-- AND ATTACHING ITSELF TO THE MAIN RELAY BOARD OF HIS ARMOR'S CIRCUITRY.


HIS SYSTEM PROTECTION OVERRIDDEN, DOOM FINDS HIMSELF IMMOBILIZED, HELPLESS.
THE SUBTERRANEAN TUNNEL DISAPPEARS, REPLACED BY VIVID ALIEN IMAGERY SUPPLIED BY THE EMISSARY --
-- CONDUCTED THROUGH THE NANOTECH INTERFACE THAT MAKES DOOM'S ARMOR A VIRTUAL SECOND SKIN.
LET US TELL YOU OF THE COLLECTIVE. WE ARE THE ONE WHO [redacted] MANY.
LONG AGO, OUR SPECIES LEARNED TO SURVIVE BY CONSUMING OUR ENEMIES --
-- AND [redacted] ABSORBING THE SUM TOTAL OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.
WHEN WE DEVELOPED FASTER THAN LIGHT TRAVEL, WE FOUND NEW SPECIES TO ASSIMILATE --
-- AND NEW WORLDS TO TECHNO-FORM TO OUR OWN SPECIFICATIONS.
OUR FIRST [redacted]ENTS FAILED IN THEIR [redacted]TTEMPT TO ASSIMILATE YOUR SPECIES.
HUMANITY IS A CURIOUS MIX OF CELESTIAL ENGINEERING AND SURPRISING MUTATIONS.
WE BELIEVE IT HOLDS THE KEY TO OUR NEXT EVOLUTIONARY JUMP.
CERTAIN MEMBERS OF YOUR SPECIES WERE PARTIALLY ASSIMILATED WITH OUR SCOUTS --
-- GENETICALLY ALTERED TO CARRY [redacted] CROSS [redacted] HUMAN AND COLLECTIVE DNA.
WE HAVE RETURNED TO CLAIM THEM.

THEIR HUMAN GENETICS HIDE THESE SCOUTS FROM THE COLLECTIVE MIND.
WE ASK YOUR ASSISTANCE IN FINDING THESE HYBRIDS.
WE HOPE IT WILL BE GIVEN VOLUNTARILY
YOU'RE NOT GIVING ME MUCH OF A CHOICE.
A FOCUSED BEAM OF LIGHT BREAKS THROUGH THE WALL --
-- WASHING OVER DOOM AND THE EMISSARY WITH AN INTENSITY THAT DISRUPTS THE ALIEN'S HOLD ON THE LATVERIAN.
SOMETHING IS INTERFERING WITH OUR CONNECTION TO THE COLLECTIVE--
I'M FREE, BUT HOW?
MOVE BACK, EMISSARY! THERE WILL BE NO ASSIMILATIONS THIS DAY!
ONE OF THE Y'LESTJA'S HARBINGERS -- HERE?
KAZMIERZ ROSIKON? WHAT IS FORTUNE'S BROTHER DOING IN THE ARMOR OF RADIAN?*
* THE LIGHT ENERGIZED ALIEN FIRST SEEN IN DOOM 2099 #5. -- Suzanne

FROM THE WALLS, WEAPONS FORM ON ALL SIDES OF THE RADIANT LATVERIAN --
-- BATHING HIM IN LASER FIRE.
WHY DO YOU USE LASERS AGAINST ONE WHO COMMANDS THE VERY PHOTONS OF LIGHT ENERGY?
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO ENGAGE IN POINTLESS BATTLE.
WE KNOW YOUR MASTERS, RADIAN --
-- DO THEY SEEK TO SHATTER THE TRUCE BETWEEN Y'LESTJA AND THE COLLECTIVE?
THE Y'LESTJA GAVE ME THIS POWER, TRUE.
I AM IN THEIR DEBT, BUT NOT IN THEIR SERVICE.

I WATCHED RADIAN DIE...
THE RADIAN YOU KNEW NOW EXISTS IN A PURER STATE OF BEING.
I SALVAGED HIS ARMOR, BUT LOST IT WHEN I CRASHED IN THE SAVAGE LAND.
IT FOUND ME. ALTHOUGH AT FIRST, I THOUGHT I WAS HALLUCINATING.
BUT SLOWLY I CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF MY GIFT.
WHY WOULD THE Y'LESTJA GIVE YOU SUCH POWER?
THE Y'LESTJA CELEBRATE THE DIVERSITY OF LIFE ACROSS THE UNIVERSE.
YOUR RACE HAS NO REGARD FOR THE INDIVIDUALITY OF OTHER SENTIENCE.
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN STAND AGAINST THE COLLECTIVE?
I AM THIS PLANET'S PROTECTOR NOW.
DO YOU WANT TO TEST ME?

ENOUGH! YOU'LL SOLVE NOTHING HERE BY FIGHTING.
THE EARTH IS UNDERGOING TREMENDOUS CHANGES.
THE WORLD OF TOMORROW WILL BE A VERY DIFFERENT ONE THAN THE ONE WE KNOW TODAY.
I PROPOSE WE WORK TOGETHER TO BENEFIT ALL OUR NEEDS.
YOU CAN'T NEGOTIATE WITH THE COLLECTIVE.
A MOMENT AGO IT WAS READY TO ASSIMILATE YOU!
MY CONCERN IS FOR LATVERIA'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE.
THE MALHELA MOUNTAINS WILL SOON BE THE MALHELA ISLANDS.
I BELIEVE THE COLLECTIVE'S TECHNO-FORMING SCIENCE HOLDS THE KEY TO REBUILDING LATVERIA.
AND WHAT WILL THE COLLECTIVE RECEIVE IN RETURN?
I'M NOT WITHOUT MY OWN RESOURCES. I HAVE ONE OF THE SCOUTS YOU SEEK.
LET'S MAKE A DEAL.
Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations -- entangling alliances with none. Thomas Jefferson, 1801.
TO BE CONTINUED IN 2099: WORLD OF TOMORROW!

VOICES OF

Dear Voices of Doom,

In DOOM 2099 #44, Daredevil and Namor unravelled the crab mystery from opposite ends, and both found Doom in the middle. We already knew what Doom was doing. We don't know why, however, and probably won't fully understand until "Rage Against Time" concludes. Fortunately, so much cool stuff is happening along the way that the waiting is bearable.

One of the most interesting scenes in issue #41 was Doom's apology to Dorian. It's now clear that Doom has become different from his modern self in some aspects.

I have heard that not only DOOM 2099, but all of the 2099 books are going to be cancelled. This is a sad development. Will the 2099 universe continue in a double-sized monthly as has been proposed?

Matt Kuhns
200 Cherry Street
Anamosa, IA 52205

Well, Matt, your sources are on the money. We will be cancelling the 2099 group of titles but will be relaunching them in the new title, 2099: WORLD OF TOMORROW.

If you're a subscriber, Matt, then your subscription will continue with 2099: WORLD OF TOMORROW #1, shipping this July. If you, or anyone out there, has any questions about your subscription, please feel free to contact Marvel Direct Customer Service, P.O. Box 1979, Danbury, CT 06813-1979 or pick up the phone and give us a call at (203) 743-3551. Okay? Okay! Thanks for bringing it up, Matt.

And please let us know what you think about 2099: THE WORLD OF TOMORROW. You are all, of course, the real editors.

Dear Voices,

With everyone talking about DOOM 2099's impending cancellation, I figured it was time I put in my two cents worth.

The problem with this book is that the entire series is just Doom formulating, and executing plans. And the plans always work! Even when something unexpected does happen, it's corrected within the next few issues.

The twentieth century Doom gets beaten so often it's embarrassing. The 2099 Doom gets beaten so little it's ridiculous. Can't you balance out the scales a bit?

Also, this whole world domination bit is outdated. Most bad guys don't even go in for it anymore. If Doom 2099 is supposed to be something resembling a superhero, give him a more heroic cause to fight for. Early issues showed that he really cared about people (sort of). Try building on that.

A few other minor suggestions for making this book better are:

1) Finish some old storylines. Who were Xandra's parents? And Doom used to be haunted by memories that he was responsible for Latveria's destruction. What happened to that?

2) Make sure the artwork matches Doom. No more of this dark Batman-like stuff. Doom is royalty; the art should have a regal feel to it.

3) This new armor looks too much like the original. Considering the current storyline, this was probably your intention, but after the last two sleek and sophisticated models, this retro thing is a big disappointment.

Anyway, if all else fails and this book does get cancelled, Doom will probably be absorbed in FANTASTIC FOUR 2099. I can live with that, just don't turn him into a bad guy again. Doom's over a hundred years old now. It's time he finally put that childish obsession with making the FF's lives miserable behind him.

Andrew Whitworth
3287 Henry Knob Road
Clover, SC 29710

Thanks for letting us have it--with both barrels--Andrew! Just kidding. As you know, DOOM 2099 is being cancelled, but that doesn't mean your ideas are not valid suggestions to consider for the 2099: WORLD OF TOMORROW book. We'll be sure to pass them on.

Dear Bullpen,

I hope this series survives because I think it is just starting to become really good.

I like that the new plotline is taking place in 1996. I never really liked the idea of the series taking place in the future, and I don't buy any of the other 2099 titles. I buy this one only because of my interest in Victor Von Doom, one of Marvel's greatest characters and a favorite of mine for 30 years. But I like the 1996 Doom with the grey metal armor, green tunic, and volatile personality much better than the future Doom in white and blue with a strange personality. I hope your new plotline shows how Doom changed; the murkiness of the untold events has always been very irritating.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that I think John Buscema is one of the all-time great artists. Kids these days haven't had enough opportunity to see his work. I say you should buy AVENGERS back issues from 1967-1972 if you want to see great art!!!

C.P. Hartmann
P.O. Box 2434
Stillwater, OK 74076

Thanks for the advice, C.P. We couldn't agree with you more about John Buscema. In fact, since you are such a J.B.-phile, we'll let you in on a little secret. John did a back up story for us which will be in the double-sized FANTASTIC FOUR #416.

And speaking of FF #416 guess who'll be actually lending a helping hand to the FF? That's right--none other than Doom himself. We'd tell you more but we don't want to spoil the surprise. You understand, right C.P.

And speaking of surprises, we thought we'd try something a little bit new with the art of Jeff Lafferty on these last few DOOM issues. We know he's a departure from the Buscema school but we thought he was pretty magical. Let us know what you thought, okay?

DESIGN BY COMICRAFT (JIM)

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BOB HARRAS -CHIEF-

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